

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 268812

61

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 H-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SSM-05 /083 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

EUR/SOV - MR. GLASSMAN

NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER

NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

----- 053933

O 012244Z NOV 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

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PAGE 02 STATE 268812

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
CINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 268812

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - NOVEMBER 1

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
NOVEMBER 1, 1976:

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF PALESTIN-
IANS WHO MAY HAVE RETURNED TO SOUTHERN LEBANON?

A. I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THAT. I HAVE SEEN PRESS
REPORTS, BUT I HAVE NO OTHER INFORMATION.

Q. COULD YOU CONFIRM OR DENY THE WEEKEND REPORT THAT THE
RUSSIANS HAVE NOT ACCEPTED AMBASSADOR TOON AS THE NEW
AMBASSADOR TO THE SOVIET UNION?

A. I CAN CONFIRM THAT WE HAVE REQUESTED AN AGREEMENT FOR
AMBASSADOR TOON TO BE THE NEXT AMBASSADOR TO THE SOVIET
UNION. AND I ALSO CAN CONFIRM THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS
NOT RESPONDED TO OUR REQUEST.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 268812

Q. WHAT HAPPENED? WHEN WAS THE REQUEST?

A. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.

Q. ISN'T THAT RATHER UNUSUAL FOR THEM?

A. WE CONSIDER THEIR LACK OF REPLY TO BE A MOST
UNUSUAL PROCEDURE. AND I WOULD ADD THAT WE HAVE NO

INTENTION OF WITHDRAWING HIS NAME.

Q. DID THE SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN DISCUSS THIS?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. IF PRESIDENT FORD LOSES, MR. TOON WILL BE OBLIGED TO SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION. IN FACT, NO MATTER WHO WINS OR LOSES, HE WOULD BE OBLIGED TO SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION, WOULD HE NOT?

A. ALL PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES WOULD SUBMIT THEIR RESIGNATION AS A MATTER OF ROUTINE.

Q. WELL, IS IT NORMAL PRACTICE TO SUBMIT THE NAME OF AN AMBASSADOR WHO MIGHT, IN FACT, BE IN OFFICE ONLY TWO MONTHS?

A. YOU KNOW YOU COULD SAY THAT NO NEW AMBASSADORS SHOULD BE NOMINATED FOR A GIVEN PERIOD IN AN ELECTION YEAR. MR. STOESSEL HAS JUST GONE TO GERMANY. THE POSITION IS VACANT AND IT IS OBVIOUSLY A VERY IMPORTANT DIPLOMATIC POST.

AMBASSADOR TOON IS A VERY DISTINGUISHED DIPLOMAT AND IT WAS THE PRESIDENT'S JUDGMENT, OBVIOUSLY, THAT HE IS THE BEST QUALIFIED MAN FOR THE JOB.

Q. BUT THE RUSSIANS ARE OBVIOUSLY AWARE THAT HE MIGHT BE THERE FOR ONLY A SHORT TIME. WAS THAT EXPLAINED TO THEM, THAT HE MIGHT BE THERE LONGER THAN --?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 268812

A. AS I HAVE SAID, THEY HAVE NOT RESPONDED TO THE REQUEST, BUT THEY HAVE NOT REJECTED IT.

Q. WHAT EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO GET A RESPONSE TO IT OTHER THAN JUST HAVING SUBMITTED IT SEVERAL WEEKS AGO?

A. I CANNOT PROVIDE YOU THE DETAILS OF ANY EXCHANGES ON THAT. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN A FOLLOW UP AT ALL?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. WELL IN ANY CASE, HE COULDN'T GO UNTIL AFTER JANUARY

BECAUSE OF THE CONFIRMATION PROCESS.

A. YES, I THINK THAT IS CORRECT ALTHOUGH THERE IS
SOMETIMES PROVISION FOR AN INTERIM APPOINTMENT. KISSINGER

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